understands a "photoresistor" to comprise a device that "responds to incident illumination with a decrease in internal resistance." (Encyclopedia of Electronics, Second Edition, 1990)

With this understanding, it is clear that Nisch does not teach "a first photovoltaic element (34, 35) and second photovoltaic element (30)", but instead teaches a photoresistor layer (34, 35) and a photovoltaic element (30). In particular, the elements of Nisch (34, 35) alleged to teach the first photovoltaic elements are clearly described as photoresistor elements:

> "When visible light 21' impinges on amorphous layer 34, the conductivity of the latter abruptly increases by several orders of magnitude. As a consequence an area of extremely good electrical conductivity is generated within a local area 35 of amorphous layer 34 . . . . Area 35, therefore, acts like an optically controlled electrical switch." (Nisch, column 4 @ 65 – column 5 @ 5)
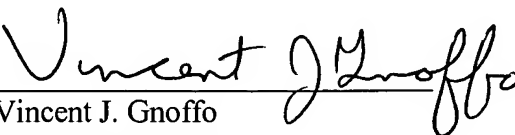
In this light, it is clear that elements 34, 35 of Nisch are not "capable of accepting light energy and converting it into an electrical signal" and therefore do not teach a first photovoltaic element as presently claimed. As such, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1 and 7 are not anticipated by Nisch and are therefore in suitable condition for allowance.

Applicants further note that claims 2-6 and 8-18 are dependent upon, and therefore include the limitations of, claims 1 and 7, respectively. Thus, to the extent that claims 1 and 7 are not anticipated by Nisch, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 2-6 and 8-18 are likewise patentably distinct from Nisch and therefore in suitable condition for allowance.

Conclusion

If Applicants may assist in expediting examination of the instant application in any way, Examiner is encouraged to contact Applicant's representative at the number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

Vincent J. Gnoffo
Registration No. 44,714
Attorney for Applicant

BRINKS HOFER GILSON & LIONE
P.O. BOX 10395
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60610
(312) 321-4200

2